8 September 2008

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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2008

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Yury G. **Yaroshevich** (Belarus)

Organizational matters

A. Membership

1. In its resolution 43/222 B, the General Assembly decided to retain the Committee on Conferences as a permanent subsidiary organ. Pursuant to the provisions of that resolution, in 2008 the Committee was composed of the following Member States: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Burundi, China, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and the United States of America.

B. Officers

2. At its organizational session for 2008, the Committee elected the following officers to serve in 2008:

Chairperson:
Patrick A. Chuasoto (Philippines)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Alejandro Torres Lepori (Argentina)
Barbara Kaudel (Austria)
Saidu Dodo (Nigeria)

Rapporteur:
Yury G. Yaroshevich (Belarus)

3. At the same session, the Committee agreed in principle that the Chairman would undertake informal consultations with a view to determining the composition of its Bureau in 2009.

C. Organization of work

4. At its organizational session (489th meeting), held on 7 April 2008, the Committee agreed to follow the guidelines adopted in 1994 and 1995 with regard to its consideration of intersessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and to meet, as required, to review proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings during sessions of the General Assembly.

5. Also at the organizational session on 7 April 2008, the Chairman proposed to hold an additional meeting in order for the Committee to review the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 in its capacity as the oversight body for programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. At the 490th meeting, held on 29 April 2008, the Committee reviewed the proposed strategic framework (A/63/6 (Prog.1)). The recommendations of the Committee were transmitted in a letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on 6 May 2008 and published in a conference room paper entitled "Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, Review of part two: biennial programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies" (E/AC.51/2008/CRP.1).

6. The Committee convened its substantive session from 8 to 12 September 2008 (491st to 49_th meetings).

7. Representatives of the Secretariat addressed the Committee at its organizational session. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management addressed the Committee at the opening of its organizational and substantive sessions. At the substantive session, he introduced the report of the Secretary-General on pattern of conferences (A/63/119 and Add.1).

D. Programme of work

8. At its organizational session for 2007, held on 12 April 2007, the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a draft agenda for 2008 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2008. At its 489th meeting, on 7 April 2008, the Committee adopted the proposed agenda (A/AC.172/2008/1) and requested the Secretariat to submit a draft agenda for 2009 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2009.

E. Participation of observers

9. The following States were represented as observers: Costa Rica, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Portugal and Singapore.